

# LAKE HURON COASTAL RESILIENCE GODERICH SEDIMENT PATHWAY RESTORATION FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

## What is the problem?

Sediment eroded from the Lake Huron shoreline is sorted by nearshore waters, separating sand and cobble material from finer clays. The sand portion moves along the shoreline from north to south by wind and waves. During low lake levels the sand accumulates into dunes and beaches that help buffer against erosion during high lake levels, providing one of the great appeals of the Lake Huron shoreline.

However, the movement of that sand can be interrupted, resulting in sediment-starvation south of the interruption, and problematic accumulation to the north.

This occurs on a large scale around the vitally important Goderich Harbour. Sand accumulates on the north side, creating an ongoing maintenance burden (annual or semi-annual dredging) while exacerbating exposure to erosion toward the south, where the sand is not available to accumulate during low lake levels.

## Restoration Complex Design

## What is the proposed solution?

The proposed solution is a Restoration Complex at the south end of Goderich.

The dredging activities required to maintain safe navigation produce large quantities of sorted sand material. The first component of the solution is to get this material nourishing the shoreline to the south, where it would have gone naturally in the absence of historic infrastructure. This is called the sand nourishment site.

The second part is an artificial reef. This reef will accomplish several things, including managing the erosion of the sand nourishment area, allowing the sand to move across the shoreline in a predictable manner, nourishing the downstream shore over a longer period. The reef has also been designed with expert advice to maximize habitat availability for aquatic species.



## Where is the project located exactly?

This project relies on natural and man-made activity across southern Lake Huron, but the Restoration Complex specifically is located in the southwest corner of the Town of Goderich.



## Where is the project now?

Background studies including sediment sampling, terrestrial and underwater archaeology, fisheries assessment, species-at-risk screening, and modelling of the local wave and sediment have been completed. Working with experts and scientists from local First Nations, coastal engineers, and geomorphologists, Conservation Ontario, municipal staff and federal and provincial agencies we have arrived at a Restoration Complex design to be implemented in 2026. During the spring and summer of 2026 we are progressing through the necessary permitting and construction tendering processes, with construction expected to begin in the fall of 2026.

## Who is funding the project?

This project is one part of the Southern Lake Huron Adaptation Strategy which is funded by:



Supported by Canada Water Agency's  
Great Lakes Freshwater Ecosystem Initiative



Canada  
Water Agency

Agence de l'eau  
du Canada

Supported by Natural Resource Canada's  
Climate-Resilient Coastal Communities Program



Natural Resources  
Canada

Ressources naturelles  
Canada

Canada

For further information, please contact us:  
[coastal@mvca.on.ca](mailto:coastal@mvca.on.ca)

Or visit our website:  
[www.mvca.on.ca](http://www.mvca.on.ca)

